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Chron

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Reader's Digest Draft, The Kremlin Under Siege

FROM

Director, Foreign Broadcast  
Information Service

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

20 May 1986

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Director of Management  
and Planning, DS&T  
Room 6E45, Headquarters

2.

3. Deputy Director for  
Science and Technology

4.

5.

6.

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**CONFIDENTIAL****ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Reader's Digest Draft, The Kremlin Under SiegeFROM: Deputy Director for Science and  
Technology  
Room 6E45, Headquarters

EXTENSION

NO.

DDS&amp;T 429-86

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and  
building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S  
INITIALSCOMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom  
to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)1. Executive Registry  
Room 7E12, Headquarters

2.

3. Executive Director

4.

5. Deputy Director of  
Central Intelligence

6.

7. Director of Central  
Intelligence

8.

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

86- 1969x/1

9 May 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDS&T

FROM: DCI

Evan:

This is something we should be  
prepared to do.



William J. Casey

Attachment:

Reader's Digest draft,  
The Kremlin Under Siege



Executive Registry

86- 1969x



READER'S DIGEST

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Memorandum from Eugene H. Methvin

1-29-86



Here's an idea we've  
discussed; you may  
want to pass it around.  
At the moment, as a  
story proposal it is in  
limbo since we have  
other Soviet pieces  
glutting the pipeline.

E.



November 20, 1985

FROM: EHM

RE: The Kremlin under Siege

The United States and the Soviet Union are roaring forward in a seemingly endless, incredibly costly arms race toward some yet unimaginable day in the early 21st century when the world's rocket-powered nuclear equivalent of "The Guns of August" begin to roar in World War III. Yet today the White House can take a step that could bring a decisive turn away from this race toward nuclear Armageddon. Imagine that the President of the United States addresses the nation:

"Ladies and Gentlemen -- Tonight I want to report to you a major technological breakthrough in our space program that gives us the power to destroy the Soviet regime and liberate its 300 million Asian and East European subjects from their police state



-2-

controls."

By "Soviet regime" the President refers to the 50,000 or so high Soviet Communist Party officials, those "nomenklaturists" on the official high-ranking lists who maintain themselves in privilege and power by police terror and extort huge resources in labor and genius from their subjects for a military-industrial complex far greater than any realistic needs for security from outside attack. These professional party activists, who proudly proclaim themselves to be above all "propagandists," obsessively inflate the external danger to justify and secure their own police state controls at home and their huge armaments from Angola to Nicaragua.

It is exactly here, on their home-front propaganda monopoly, that Western space technology now for the first time gives us the opportunity to engage and destroy them. We can now shatter their fictional imagery of threatening enemies without and demonstrate to their subjects that they do not need their chains to escape invasion or annihilation. Via satellite television broadcasting,

-3-

we can beam Free World news programming directly to Soviet and East European audiences. We can show them: "Things don't have to be this way. Your Soviet masters can climb down off their watchtowers, and without this Devil-Will-Get-You priesthood, you can enjoy vast new fruits of productivity and freedom."

The Soviet Union has 85 million TV sets, including 12 million color sets. In the major Soviet cities just about every Ivan has a TV. The Soviet regime uses satellites perched 22,500 miles out in space to beam its TV programming across its 12 time zones. At Atlanta's Emory University a giant 25-foot dish picks up Moscow programming so political scientists can analyze and compare it to U.S. domestic programming. Already some enterprising Soviet electronics technicians are reversing the circuits and pirating U.S. television signals via our own satellites. Chicago Cubs broadcaster Harry Caray recently received a letter from a "fan" in the Soviet Union who wrote that he picks up telecasts of Cub games via an illegal satellite dish. In areas adjacent to Finland, West Germany and Austria, Soviet and East European audiences are

-4-

peeking at Free World television shows.

But these minor marginal leaks in the Kremlin's "Iron Curtain" could be magnified a millionfold if the U.S. but chooses to do so. By putting up a more powerful satellite "transponder," we could put down a signal so powerful Soviet citizens could receive it with "dish" antennas hardly bigger than a pie plate or small dishpan. The Japanese are already mass-manufacturing satellite receivers no bigger than a large book to complete the hardware that could enable Soviets to receive Western broadcasts. These receivers, which might be smuggled or even be manufactured in the Soviet "underground" economy, could put millions of Soviet citizens in direct contact with the outside. Couple that with the fact that the Soviets have now begun to manufacture videotape recorders, and thousands of Soviet travelers are bringing home the more coveted German and Japanese models. A person with two of these can "mass-produce" videotapes of Western movies and newscasts. A Soviet journalist recently told a European friend about his elderly uncle who came to his apartment one evening and

## Nomenklatura

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-6-

their daily lives, eating, going to school, reading different newspapers, traveling freely in other countries, how they are ill and go to the clinics and so on. Just beam in floods of information about the reality of the free world. True, it is no paradise, but the real life and the free life are unknown in the Soviet Union. It would be a psychological bomb. To understand just how powerful, you have only to look at the torrent of lies the Soviet propagandists pump out about life here -- vast exaggerations of unemployment, racism, starvation. It is an expression of the Soviet ruling class's weakness and fear of their own people that they do this. And the people are our allies."

Voslensky and I were talking during the four-day interval between the TASS White House interview with President Reagan and Pravda's belated and hesitant publication of it. "They won't dare publish the full text," Voslensky predicted. "They will censor out the sharpest criticisms and paraphrase the others, couching them in such terms as 'The President restated the well-known capitalist view that. . . .'" Voslensky's prediction was exactly

-7-

correct. "They are afraid of their own people. Their people are our allies. The dictatorship of the nomenklatura is a very backward system, and I do not believe it can last long historically. But we must be not passive but active partisans of history. And broadcasting is the most powerful weapon we could use."

Just imagine the impact of videotapes of Red Army atrocities against Afghan freedom fighters, for example. Or of videotapes of the interviews with KGB defectors, including the recent double-defector Vitaly Yurchenko before his second turn.

The United States already broadcasts radio programming to the Soviet Union. The Voice of America and Radio Liberty reach an estimated 50 million Soviet citizens, one in every three adults. German and British broadcasts reach millions more. Radio Liberty, the U.S.-funded station in Munich, goes in on as many as 19 frequencies at once. Its programming is designed to provide news and features that a truly free Russian domestic radio service would provide. Regular RL listeners are estimated to number

-8-

between 14 and 25 million in an average month out of a total adult population of 192 million.

The highest tribute to RL's effectiveness is that the Soviet government spends as much, by Western estimates, to jam it as the entire RL budget of about \$200 million. Fortunately for Soviet audiences, for about three hours at sundown, as the ionosphere goes through its day-night shifts, it creates a twilight immunity from jamming. And the Soviets usually leave at least one frequency unjammed so they can tape what RFE/RL are saying; otherwise, how could they know what "the enemy" is telling their people in the vast areas beyond their jamming transmitters' coverage? (Among Muscovites, going into the countryside to be able to hear RL beyond the urban jamming transmitters' reach is so common that the phrase "going fishing" is universally understood to mean making such a trip.)

Impressive proof of RL's power comes in incidents like the one that happened to Los Angeles Times Moscow correspondent Robert Gillette. A Muslim peasant woman approached him outside Moscow's

-9-

international press center. She had traveled by train a thousand miles from her town in Dagestan on the Caspian Sea. She asked him to help save her son from a ten-year prison sentence in an Arctic prison camp near Archangel. "You are our last hope," she said.

"My neighbors say that I must speak to an American, and he can see to it that justice is done for my son." Says Gilette:

"Encounters like this are a common occurrence in Moscow, particularly for foreign journalists whose names become known across the country through VOA and RL." Thus, listeners seek out Western reporters to relate their own stories of injustice.

"In August 1984 the Polish government spokesman Jerzy Urban told a Wall Street Journal reporter, "If you would close your RFE, the underground would completely cease to exist."

"We can produce an exciting and vitally important piece on U.S. broadcasting to the Soviet empire -- and how the broadcast weapon can be vastly enhanced by satellite television programming. In 1980 three prominent Soviet exiles headed by Vladimir Bukovsky, the courageous young man who spent 12 years in prison because he



-10-

sparked the Moscow civil rights movement, wrote an open letter to the American President:

"Whether we like it or not, Mr. President, the fate of democracy in the world is being decided today, not in elaborate negotiations with a system which uses such talks only to conceal its geopolitical goals or at the headquarters of Western armies but rather by the strength and the intensity of the internal opposition in the subjugated countries. To aid this opposition, to support its every initiative should be our common task, especially since this is the only opposition in today's world which does not demand either money or arms of us. It only asks moral and political support from us. Only give this opposition the support it needs, and it will do the rest itself. All the information broadcast to the Soviet Union costs the West less than one -- just one modern bomber would, and if this information were of high enough quality and sufficiently effective, we could bring about a situation when mankind would never need bombers again. This and only this can be the purpose and the mission of such

-11-

organizations as Radio Liberty. Ultimately, with your help, Radio Liberty could prove equal to its historic mission."

"A Note on Technological Feasibility: To explore the technological feasibility of satellite TV broadcasting to the Soviet Union, I have thus far talked with three people: Sid Topol, president of Scientific Atlanta Corporation, one of the world's leading manufacturers of satellite earth receiving stations; Mike Lyons, vice president of Satellite Business Systems; and Bruno Patton of the FCC's Office of Technical Analysis. The VOA and RFE-RL have had a study group at work on the idea, and it reported last August, so I understand, but I have not yet talked to anyone on the group. Basically, I'm told, report boils down to "a list of reasons why we should not do it, all of which are also reasons against doing the radio broadcasting we're already doing too -- reasons such as 'It'll cost a lot,' and 'The Soviets won't like it,' and 'They can jam it.' The bottom line is, if we want to do it, we can."

"The technology is here-and-now. If we put up a 300-watt

-12-

transponder on the satellite, Ivan could receive it with a two-foot dish. There's nothing exotic about the two electronic boxes that have to go with it. One, which sits on the dish, is a "low-noise amplifier." And the TV set has to have a receiver on it.

"Any good technician could build the boxes if he had the frequency-tuning transistors to do it," says SBS's Mike Lyons.

The Japanese are already mass-producing these electronic boxes. A Canadian company, General Instruments, is producing 10,000 a month right now. "It's very straightforward electronics; any ham operator could build it," says Lyons.

Getting the transistors is more difficult. They're made of gallium arsenide and are not the kind of items that would be lying around in every Soviet equivalent of the Radio Shack, says Scientific Atlanta's Sid Topol. But the Japanese or our own Silicon Valley microchip producers could turn them out by the millions if the U.S. government chose to subsidize production. It probably would cost less than we spend to subsidize North Carolina tobacco-growers or Georgia peanut farmers. And the size of the

-13-

items is about like peanuts too -- easily smuggled past Soviet borders. Indeed, the entire electronics package is not large -- one item is about five inches in diameter by eight inches long, and the other is about the size of an ordinary book. The whole antenna unit is not costly: in the \$50-\$60 range. The entire ensemble, including dish, can now be bought in the U.S. for around \$300.

Moreover, according to the FCC's Bruno Patton, under the international agreements we now have frequencies we can use. "It's no problem finding frequencies to operate such a system," he says. "We've got them." SBS's Lyons suggests the U.S. and NATO could "pretend to cover Western Europe and spatter the signal all over Western Russia as far as the Urals, where the major population is centered." This would simply enlarge what is already happening in Soviet Karelia and the Baltic States where people are picking up Finnish and Swedish television broadcasts.

The 18-inch dish antenna has to have "line-of-sight" contact with the satellite. But it can be covered with paper, fabric or

-14-

thin wood and could be concealed in a hole in the ground or a window well or inside a rooftop pigeon coop, tomato box or comparable concealing feature.

end